

JO CALLAGHAN

State Delegate Candidate: Washington

Statement 1

What are your qualifications that make you a strong candidate for delegate?

I am honored to run for the Washington state delegate to NASP. I have been a school psychologist for 33 years, working in Colorado, Oregon and for the last 19 years in Washington. In the course of my career I have worked in rural, urban and suburban school districts. For the past 16 years I have been the Director of Itinerant Support Services in Edmonds Schools in Lynnwood Washington, a northern suburb of Seattle. Edmonds practices the comprehensive role of the school psychologist and we employ of 50 school psychs to serve our students across our 35 schools and programs.

I have also been fortunate to be involved in the training and preparation of future school psychologists, special education teachers and school counselors. I have taught graduate level course at Western Oregon State University, City University of Seattle and have been on faculty at Seattle University since 2006. Throughout my time as a building based school psychologist I have also supported and mentored over a dozen school psychology interns and numerous practicum students.

What is the most pressing issue in your state? As NASP Delegate, how do you see your role in working with your state association to address this issue?

Now is an exciting and tenuous time in our profession. As we face the continuing struggle of enduring the health and emotional factors associated with the COVID-19 pandemic, we also face the reality of the embedded racism and bias in many of the long standing practices in our field. More than ever we need leadership to change practices around standardized assessment and normative statistics. We need direction and advocacy from our national and state organizations as well as our training universities so that all children are enabled to access the core learning that is essential in the public and private education systems in the United States. We need to work alongside our colleagues in other helping professions within schools and within our community.

In the past 2 years I have been working with a group of diverse colleagues at the Office of the State Superintendent of Public Instruction to bring better understanding and practices around the identification of students with learning disabilities. It has been a struggle to bring together the best practices attempts of other states as well as to consider the definition and intent of the special education eligibility process in our state. It is my hope to continue this work within our state and national organization through my advocacy as your state delegate.